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**Alaska Democratic Party Depends on Faulty Analysis by Out-of-State Source**

(Anchorage) – Director of the Division of Elections, Whitney Brewster, today responded to the public information request and allegations made by the Alaska Democratic Party (ADP) regarding the 2004 General Election database.

“A review of the ADP’s request and media release makes it apparent that the ADP is relying on faulty analysis from an out-of-state source unfamiliar with Alaska’s election procedures,” said Brewster.

In a media release distributed by the ADP on October 5, Jim March with Black Box Voting indicates that he is troubled by the number of manual entries for the 2004 General Election. His experience with manual entries does not take into consideration the realities of conducting elections in many remote polling places, where manual entry of the data may be necessary due to transmission issues.

For instance, in Alaska, manual entry is done when a precinct using optical scan voting machines cannot upload election results from the polling place. Election results are phoned in and then manually entered. To ensure election results are accurate, the bi-partisan State Review Board conducts a review of every precinct and early and absentee voting site as well as all absentee and question counts conducted by the bi-partisan Absentee and Question Boards. Any changes made following the State Review Board’s evaluation are manually entered into the database.

March next cites information related to the 2004 Primary Election database. However, the ADP only possesses the audit log for the 2004 General Election database. “The Alaska Democratic Party was not given nor does it have in its possession the 2004 Primary Election database and audit log.”

Finally, March and the ADP claim that every individual who modified the GEMS database has the same User ID. Again, it is clear March is unfamiliar with Alaska procedures. Only the Election Program Manager maintains the central GEMS database and therefore no other User IDs are associated with that GEMS computer. The central GEMS database is physically located in the Director’s Juneau office. The results manually entered are audited by the bi-partisan State Review Board before being made official within the database.

“Alaska has a long history of stringent election procedures. As the Director of the Division, I am always concerned when dubious claims are made that confuse voters. The Alaska Democratic Party leadership has disseminated misinformation regarding the 2004 General Election based on faulty analysis of the State’s election database by an out-of-state source. No one has challenged the 2004 elections nor the 2006 Primary Election results. The Division’s testing and security procedures are transparent and can be found on the Division’s web site.”

Division of Elections website:

[http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/forms/ts\\_&\\_os\\_sec\\_meas.pdf](http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/forms/ts_&_os_sec_meas.pdf)

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